

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR GR CY

SUBJ: REACTION HERE TO STAVROPOULOS INTERVIEW ON CYPRUS
QUESTION

REF NICOSIA 0206

1. INTERVIEW GIVEN BY UNDER SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
STAVROPOULOS RE CYPRUS SITUATION TO WEEKLY CYPRIOT
NEWSPAPER ELEFOTHERIS (REFTEL) PROMPTED CRITICAL
COMMENTS BY POLITICAL OPPOSITION HERE. (SEE FBIS
NC 191013Y FOR TEXT OF STAVROPOULOS STATEMENT.) IN
REACTION, A GREEK GOVERNMENT SOURCE ASSERTED THAT
STATEMENTS MADE BY STAVROPOULOS WERE NOT ACCURATELY
REPORTED AND THAT "WHAT WAS WRITTEN DID NOT CORRESPOND
TO REALITY".

2. PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION LEADER GEORGE MAVROS, CU/NF
LEADER, CENTERED HIS REMARKS ON CONCEPT OF BIZONAL
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SETTLEMENT AND ASSERTED THAT IF ADOPTED IT WOULD

MEAN THE ABOLITION OF THE INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE ISLAND. HE ASSERTED AS WELL THAT SUCH A SETTLEMENT WOULD BE A CAUSE OF CONTINUOUS DISPUTE BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES AND WOULD CONSTITUTE AS WELL A CONSTANT SOURCE OF FRICTION BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY. HE STATED THAT SUCH A SOLUTION SHOULD BE AVOIDED AT ALL COSTS.

3. PASOK LEADER PAPANDREOU CALLED UPON GOG TO INFORM THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE GREEK PEOPLE WHETHER IT SHARED STAVROPOULOS VIEWS. PAPANDREOU ASSERTED THAT "IT IS CLEAR" THAT THE PRESSURES OF THE USA AND NATO ON THE CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT FOR BASIC CONCESSIONS ON BOTH THE CYPRUS ISSUE AND THE AEGEAN ARE BEING INTENSIFIED.

4. STORY HAS PRETTY WELL DIED OUT IN GREEK PRESS WITH EXCEPTION OF ELEFTHEROTYPIA (LEFT-OF-CENTER, ANTI-U.S.) OF JANUARY 23 WHICH CLAIMS THAT STAVROPOULOS INTERVIEW HAD BEEN TAPED AND ACCORDINGLY CALLS ON THE GOVERNMENT TO CLARIFY THE GREEK POSITION. THE REPORT CONCLUDES BY ASSERTING THAT THE QUESTION OF THE "STAVROPOULOS STATEMENTS" REMAINS SUSPENDED UNTIL THE RETURN FROM EGYPT OF PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS. KUBISCH

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